

prelim time of 1:38.42 and a finals time of 1:38.36, both personal bests—and won the title by almost two seconds.

And he responded to a big challenge in the 100 butterfly, where Champaign Central stud Dan Trupin was the odds-on favorite—until Silkaitis broke the state record of 49.54 with a time of 48.96 in the prelims.

That threw a scare into Trupin, who responded by re-setting the record at 48.69 Saturday. Silkaitis settled for second best at 49.34.

"It was nice to win the 200 again, especially because this is my senior year," Silkaitis said. "Today was definitely harder than in the prelims. I'd have said no way coming into the meet that I could go a couple of 1:38s, but after yesterday I thought I could do it again. I felt good today."

"Was I disappointed in the fly? Not at all. If you're going to lose, lose to the best. I knew Trupin would be there and I just gave it everything I could."

Also producing points for the new state champs—with legendary coach Dobbie Burton, who led the Wildkits to five state titles in the 1950s, watching from the stands—were McCaffrey (fourth in the 200 freestyle, second in the 100 freestyle), Wallace (sixth in the 50 and sixth in the 100), Glenn Anderson (11th in the 100 backstroke) and the medley relay unit of Anderson, Justin Froelich, Taylor Hales and Seth Weidmann that finished 12th.

Both of Evanston's relay triumphs turned out to be the fastest times in the country this season, Silkaitis, Weidmann, Wallace and McCaffrey beat out rival New Trier with a winning time of 1:24.90 that was actually slower than their prelim effort (1:24.72).

The same foursome finished with a flourish in the 400. It marked the first time the Wildkits have won that event in their history.

McCaffrey's decision to participate in shorter races this season (he placed eighth last year in the 500 free) paid off. He wasn't happy with another fourth place finish in the 200 but came on strong after that. His splits were a 20.5 on the shorter relay and an incredible 45.5 on the 400.

"It was obvious to me the 500 was going to be harder with all those fast young kids coming up," said the Wildkit senior. "The 100 proved to be a better race for me."

"I trained hard and lifted a lot of weights this year to prepare for this. I knew this would be a fast race, but I didn't know it would be this fast (a state record 44.40 by winner Matt Grevers of Lake Forest). I knew first place was out of the question there. I was just trying to get some team points."

So was Wallace, a junior who established himself as one of the state's top sprinters.

"My individual swims weren't what I wanted, but the relays were awesome!" he said. "We were so pumped up for that 400 even though we already had the meet won. We wanted the state record (3:05.84), but we couldn't quite get it."

"Yesterday I felt a lot of pressure to make it into the top six (in the 50 and 100). I did what I had to do. I think coach Auger deserves so much credit. He had us swimming just as hard in practice as we did in the meets. And the taper was right on."

Good luck may have had something to do with Evanston's title after all. The school was fortunate to land Auger, who also coaches the girls team, via the Wildkit Swim Organization club.

He landed the full-time club position two years before taking the helm at the high school and worked with some of the current Kits as pre-teens.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

"I'm thankful the WSO reached out to a remote place like Canada to sell me on coming to this place," Auger said. "They wanted to see the program get back to where it was when Dobbie was coaching."

"This was in the works when I first saw this group of kids. I'm a big believer in hard work getting you where you want to go, and my philosophy was we won't be out-worked. This year the whole team got behind that philosophy."

"I wouldn't have come here if I didn't believe the potential was here to win a state championship. All I did was convince them they were capable of doing it, and give them the work to back it up."

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF RUDOLPH V. MARSHALL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" V. Marshall, the founder and chairman of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition, who recently passed away at the age of 64.

Rudy Marshall proudly served this country for 30 years. He enlisted in the United States Navy. He worked at the Veterans' Hospital and the Alameda Naval Supply.

Rudy demonstrated his leadership abilities in the community. He was often involved with service projects, which helped to build and to strengthen the neighborhoods. He developed a trust and a bond with the people.

One of Rudy's greatest achievement was his founding and chairing of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition in 1979. He was a tireless advocate of the racial diversification of newspaper and broadcast facilities. Rudy utilized all legal avenues to ensure the fair treatment of African Americans and other minorities by the media.

He conducted workshops and seminars for young people to have the opportunity to experience broadcasting and media work first hand. Rudy provided mentors from the communications industry in hopes of fostering an interest for a career in journalism.

Rudy Marshall was a pioneer in bringing to the people's attention the demand for fair and diverse representation in the media industry. He had a deep passion for justice, fairness, and professionalism.

He has touched us all. Rudy Marshall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and community leader will be deeply missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT AVAILABILITY ACT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of medical savings accounts. As we begin the 107th Congress, I am sad to report

that over 43 million Americans are without health insurance. One solution to help alleviate this problem is medical savings accounts (MSAs). Figures recently released by the Internal Revenue Service confirm that MSAs are insuring the uninsured at an astounding rate. According to the IRS, since the program began in January of 1997, 32 percent of MSA purchasers were previously uninsured.

This success is in spite of restrictions placed on the pilot program, which was part of the bipartisan Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1996. As of now, you can only get an MSA if you work for a company with 50 or fewer employees or if you are self-employed. However, many thousands of uninsured people have been purchasing MSA policies because MSAs are making health insurance affordable for the first time. In addition, MSAs allow for choice of doctor and put healthcare decisions in the hands of the individual, not a managed care administrator.

Today, following in the bipartisan spirit under which MSAs were originally created, Chairman THOMAS and I have introduced the Medical Savings Account Availability Act, with strong bipartisan support. This bill would repeal the 750,000 cap on taxpayer participation and make MSAs permanent. The legislation also expands the eligibility of MSAs to all individuals with a qualified high deductible plan.

Repealing the 750,000 cap and making MSAs permanent are key to continuing the success of MSAs. Last year, Congress extended MSAs for 2 years. Nevertheless, many insurers are reluctant to invest the capital to market MSAs if they will expire soon. The Medical Savings Account Availability Act would make MSAs permanent. Insurers have also been hesitant to offer MSAs because the cap restrictions limit the size of the market in which MSAs could be offered. Therefore, repealing the cap would encourage the mass marketing of MSAs and increase Americans' awareness of the benefits of MSAs.

It has been 8 years since the first Medical Savings Account bill was introduced with bipartisan support. MSAs have a proven track record of insuring the uninsured, giving individuals choice and control over their health care, making health care affordable by reducing the cost of premiums, and encouraging Americans to save for long-term health care expenses. With 43 million Americans vulnerable and uninsured, it's time to make MSAs available to everyone. I look forward to working with Chairman THOMAS, members of both parties, and others who want all consumers to be able to reap the benefits of MSAs. I urge my colleagues to join us and support the Medical Savings Account Availability Act. The 43 million uninsured Americans will thank you.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 180th anniversary of